

## This Week's Message: A Look at the Life to Come

**Passage:** Luke 16:19-31

**Key Takeaways:** Jesus tells His followers one final story, but rather than using parables, he references specific people by name. In the text, we are introduced to four characters - a rich man, a beggar named Lazarus, the patriarch Abraham, and the Lord Jesus. Christ contrasts the affluence of the rich man with the poverty of Lazarus. The rich man throws elaborate feasts to impress others while Lazarus begs for crumbs. Christ then advances these men's story to eternity. Keeping with the party imagery, He describes eternity in the context of a great festival banquet. Because of his trust in the Word of God, Lazarus sits in a chief seat next to the esteemed Abraham. The rich man only trusted in himself, and therefore is in torment in Hell. With all of his riches stripped from him, the man now realizes he has wasted his life. He now begs Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his family from following his same path to Hell. Abraham declines declaring that God's Word is all man needs to make the correct choice for eternity.

**Through this story, Jesus seeks to convey three powerful truths:**

**(1) Eternity with Christ is by grace.** - God is willing to grant forgiveness to anyone honest enough to admit they are broken and need a Savior. Grace is the only way any of us get a seat at that eternal celebration.

**(2) Eternity without Christ is final.** - Only the living can ask for grace. If we choose to push Jesus away now, He will grant our wish one day in eternity. When life passes, the time of choosing has ceased.

**(3) Eternal Life is found in the Word of God** - Hell is a real place, and people really go there. Even those who have trusted in Christ for eternity can live through seasons of "Hell" in this life. Each instance is a result of trusting in something other than the Word of God. Only Christ can save us.

**Remember the process of NEBO CROSSING - Connect, Grow, Serve, Share.** Only a certain kind of people can influence life change.

### Questions to Think On & Discuss:

(1) Whether you identify more with the rich man or Lazarus, the point of the passage is to evaluate where we have placed our trust. Consider yourself. Where have you placed your trust?

(2) Jesus spoke directly to the reality of Heaven and Hell. How should his teaching alter the way we live our daily lives?

(3) We believe our process at Nebo Crossing mirrors the message of the Gospel. We CONNECT to Jesus and others in real relationship. We GROW in Christ-like maturity and identity. We SERVE passionately in the church and our community. And we SHARE in Christ's ministry of reconciliation. In the process, what is the next step you need to take?



### THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE:

What are you known for? An enlightening question to ask someone you have just met is, "Tell me about yourself." Often, what follows is what they feel is most significant about themselves. Why not ask yourself the same question. Write it out. Get honest. What do you consider to be most significant? Your career? Your wealth or lack thereof. Your faith in God? Make a list. Then follow this exercise up with this question. "Which of these will matter in eternity?"